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ANNUAL REPORT

for

1944

on the

HEALTH OF MAIDSTONE

by the

Medical Officer of Health.

P. JACOB GAFFIKIN, M.C.,
M.D., B.Ch., B.A.O., D.P.H.

Medical Officer to the Education Authority for the
Borough of Maidstone.

Maidstone:
W. P. DICKINSON & SON, LTD., Printers and Stationers, HIGH STREET.

1945

REPORT OF THE MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH FOR THE YEAR 1944.

To the Mayor, Aldermen & Councillors of the Borough of Maidstone.

MR. MAYOR, LADIES AND GENTLEMEN,

I have the honour to present to you my Annual Report on the Health and Sanitary Condition of the Borough of Maidstone, for the year ending December 31st, 1944.

Again this is a war-time report and for the sake of economy in labour and paper, it is restricted as were its predecessors of the war years, to matters of immediate interest and to fresh advances during the year. But if the reports of the war years are reduced in volume, the same is not to be said of the work of Health Departments, and Local Government has had a proud share in the country's war effort. The achievements in Civil Defence are well-known, but in many other directions, both for the maintenance of the health and spirit of the civilian population and for the care of the sick among the troops and their dependents, Local Authorities have had a share, the extent of which will probably never be recorded or fully appreciated. Even in the glorious adventure of "D" day, Maidstone Health Department had a part, in common with other Health Departments, for a call was made on the staffs of the Health Service for staff for reception camps for refugees from invaded areas.

The advances recorded in my Report for last year have been maintained and expanded: Day Nurseries, school meals, the supply of vitamins for expectant and nursing mothers and for children and the work of the scabies treatment centre, have all been continued with success and thanks to the generous gift of the equipment by Messrs. Tilling-Stevens, Ltd., there is now a clinic for treatment by radiant heat and artificial sunlight, which has proved very successful.

The repair of bomb-damaged houses has added a heavy burden of work and all the activities of the Health Department have had to be carried on with a depleted staff and with temporary and unskilled assistance. But we can again record that, in spite of difficulties, the work of the Department has been maintained and advances have been secured. For the future, we can foresee even greater activity: housing will be the clamant need and the resources of Local Authorities will be strained to the utmost to satisfy it, and unless this need is met—and the returning fighting men are convinced that every possible effort is being made—our social structure may well be rocked to its foundations. The debt to those who saved the country, both service and civilian, must be paid and in this, Local Authorities will have an onerous duty and a glorious opportunity; if they fail in this, they will have sacrificed the confidence of the nation, but I feel sure that Local Government, with local knowledge and local interest and pride, will prove equal to the task.

To the Council, the Health Committee and to my colleagues of the staff, I would again offer my thanks for the help and forbearance which I have received in the past year, and,

I have the honour to be, Mr Mayor, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

P. JACOB GAFFIKIN,

August 17th, 1945.

Medical Officer of Health.

General Statistics.

AREA.—5,942 acres.

POPULATION: Census 1921—37,448.

,, 1931—42,259.

ESTIMATED RESIDENT POPULATION, 1944.

For calculation of Birth rates ..	}	45,190
For calculation of Death rates, etc.		

NUMBER OF INHABITED HOUSES (end of 1944) ACCORDING TO RATE BOOKS, 13,143.

RATEABLE VALUE—£470,276.

SUM REPRESENTED BY A PENNY RATE—£1,910.

Extracts from Vital Statistics

	For Infantile Mortality rates.			For Birth rate.		
LIVE BIRTHS	Male.	Female.	Total.	Male.	Female.	Total.
Legitimate	451	421	872	451	421	872
Illegitimate	60	39	99	60	39	99
	511	460	971	511	460	971

Birth Rate per 1,000 of the estimated resident population	22.173
Live birth rate for England and Wales	21.487

STILL BIRTHS. 21

Rate per 1,000 total (live and still) births 21.168

DEATHS	Total 603	Male 324	Female 279
Death Rate per 1,000 estimated resident population.....	13.343		

Deaths from puerperal causes (Headings 29 and 30 of the Registrar-General's Short List):—

	Deaths.	Rate per 1,000 total live and still births.
No. 29 Puerperal sepsis.....	nil.	nil.
No. 30 other puerperal causes	nil.	nil.

Death Rate of Infants under one year of age:—

All Infants per 1,000 live births.....	85.4
Legitimate Infants per 1,000 live births	83.7
Illegitimate Infants per 1,000 live births	101.01
Deaths from Cancer (all ages)	83
„ „ Measles (all ages)	nil
„ „ Whooping Cough (all ages).....	nil
„ „ Diarrhoea (under 2 years of age)	25

General Provision of Health Services in the Area.

In general, the work of the various clinics has been carried on as outlined in previous Reports, but there have been some alterations and innovations which are noted below.

SCHOOL CLINICS. These have been continued and routine medical inspection has been completed at all the schools, on the modified lines ordered by the Board of Education, by which the routine examination of children in the "Intermediate" group was suspended, except for those children in whom some defect had been noted previously. Routine medical inspections were carried out on 1,218 children while special examinations and re-examinations numbered 1,885. Attendances at the minor ailment clinics totalled 5,210 and at the school dental clinic, where the work has during the war been concentrated at one clinic, the attendances were 1,884.

INFANT WELFARE. Details of the work of the Infant Welfare Department are set out below.

INFANT WELFARE FIGURES FOR 1944.

No. of first visits paid to the homes of Infants	...	...	769
Total number of visits paid to homes of Infants	...	...	2441
" " " " Children	...	...	3191
No. of first visits paid to Ante-Natal Cases	...	...	345
Total visits paid to Ante-Natal Cases	...	...	433
Attendances of Mothers at Old Palace	...	...	5961
" Infants "	...	...	4928
" Children "	...	...	1283
" Mothers at Barming	...	...	1939
" Infants at Barming	...	...	1389
" Children "	...	...	813
" Mothers at Mangravet	...	...	652
" Infants "	...	...	479
" Children "	...	...	275
Medical Inspections at Old Palace	...	...	101
" Barming	...	...	50
" Mangravet	...	...	26
Ante-Natal Clinics held	...	...	51
Individual Mothers attending	...	...	383
TOTAL ATTENDANCES	...	...	575
Number of Health Talks given	...	...	40
Infants and Children seen by Doctor at Old Palace	...	...	2538
" " " Barming	...	...	997
" " " Mangravet	...	...	405
Average Attendance of Infants and Children at Old Palace	...	...	61
" Number seen by Doctor at Old Palace	...	...	25
" Attendance of Infants and Children at Barming	...	...	44
" Number seen by Doctor at Barming	...	...	20
" Attendance of Infants and Children at Mangravet	...	...	29
" Number seen by Doctor at Mangravet	...	...	16

Individual Mothers attending at Old Palace	...	...	764
„ Infants „ „	...	...	368
„ Children „ „	...	...	422
„ Mothers „ Barming	...	...	209
„ Infants „ „	...	...	77
„ Children „ „	...	...	159
„ Mothers „ Mangravel	...	...	109
„ Infants „ „	...	...	39
„ Children „ „	...	...	101

HOSPITALS. The two voluntary hospitals in the town, the West Kent General Hospital and the Kent County Ophthalmic & Aural Hospital have been linked up during the war emergency with the Emergency Medical Services Scheme for the treatment of war casualties and for the need of the civilian population. It is probably not generally appreciated that this scheme has provided a link between the great hospitals in London and the provincial hospitals which would, had it proved necessary, been a complete co-ordination of hospital resources and which may well provide the data for a national hospital plan. The voluntary hospitals have continued their service to supply the local needs and the debt of the community to the voluntary hospital cannot be estimated. It would be a national loss and an irretrievable error if, in any future scheme for the care of the sick and medical service for the population, the voluntary hospitals were extinguished. But no one can deny that improvements are necessary and I look forward to a greater degree of co-ordination between the voluntary and municipal agencies and to a liberation of the hospitals from the financial anxieties and restrictions which often set bounds to their usefulness and even hamper progress. In Maidstone we can boast that there is a happy and cordial co-operation between the hospitals and the Health Department and of this, the joint conduct of the Maternity Home is a pleasingly successful example. I trust that the return to the Maternity Ward in the West Kent Hospital will not be long delayed and that soon it will be possible to provide additional beds. The Maternity Hospital has been very successful in its temporary home at South Park. The work has been of high standard and the greatest credit is due to the medical and nursing staff, who have carried on in difficulties for nearly six years. Additional maternity beds will be necessary, for the housing situation will increase the number of cases where confinements cannot take place at home and the Mothers are becoming more desirous of entering hospital for their confinements. Our experiment in linking the municipal maternity home with the voluntary hospital has been a great success and I should like to see future municipal medical provision, such as clinics and welfare centres, more closely linked with the hospital and using more extensively the specialist assistance and the treatment resources which the hospitals can provide and which it is uneconomic to duplicate.

The Borough Isolation Hospital has continued to give good service to the town and has been able to assist other authorities and to take military cases. The buildings and equipment of this hospital have not been what is desirable and re-construction of this hospital is very desirable, but several needful improvements have been secured and the conditions for the nurses made more attractive, so that we have not had such difficulty in obtaining nursing staff as has been experienced elsewhere. But conditions still need improvement and our experience has shown that, now that nurses' salaries are on a more satisfactory basis, the need is for better living conditions to attract young women into the nursing profession.

Births notified during 1944: live births 971, still births 21, Total 992.

Confinements at patients' homes 529. In hospitals and nursing homes 463.

Maternity outfits supplied 6.

CHILD LIFE PROTECTION. (Section 206 to 220 of the Public Health Act, 1936.)

(a) Number of persons receiving children for reward on the Register at the end of the year	8
(b) Number of children on the Register:—	
(i.) at the end of the year	8
(ii.) who died during the year	—
(iii.) on whom inquests were held during the year...	—
(c) Number of Infant Protection Visitors at the end of the year who were:—	
(i.) Health Visitors...	3

Treatment of Scabies.

In the Report for 1943, I described the provision that had been made for the treatment of scabies. This distressing infestation, which it is of interest to note has been recorded as increasing during the period of former wars has continued to be a problem and one of the difficulties has been that it is sometimes unrecognised or the signs attributed to some other cause. In fact, I have been surprised at the varied origins that have been quoted as the causal agency—fruit rash is a common label given and I have even been assured that the skin manifestations are due to the war bread—but I am still of opinion that the increased incidence is due to more rapid transmission of the mites from the crowded conditions in which many live and travel.

Treatment has been given at one of the centres established for gas contaminated cases and it is found that such treatment at a centre, by trained workers is very much more effective than any attempt at treatment at home. The treatment was carried out by the Civil Defence workers until Civil Defence was disbanded when the Health Committee decided to engage workers to continue this needful service. During 1944, 522 patients were treated, 46 men, 139 women and 337 children, and success has generally been secured in two treatments per patient.

War-time Nurseries.

The three Nurseries, at Highfield, at South Park and at Ringlestone have been continued, for the children of women engaged on war work. During 1944, the Nursery at Highfield continued to accommodate children at night, for those women who were engaged on night work or on late shifts and we have also been able to help in cases where the Mothers had to go into hospital and there was no one to care for the children. These Nurseries are provided by the Ministries of Health and of National Service and were intended as war-time provision. While I deplore the need for the mothers of young children to go out to work it is probable that there will be cases where this will be necessary—cases where the Fathers are sick or disabled, where the Mother is a widow or unmarried and where the family income makes it needful for the Mother to seek work and for such, it is probable that Day Nurseries will continue to be required. Nursery schools are envisaged in the new Education Act, but in addition to these, a Nursery for the smaller children will be required and in the many instances where it will be necessary for the young married folk to live in rooms or with relatives till houses are ready for them, a nursery where the babies can be received and the strain on the households relieved for a part of the day at least, with consequent relief to temper and patience, will be most desirable. And I am pleased to record as my conviction that the child, especially where it is an "Only," benefits enormously from nursery life. It will be necessary for the Local Authority to decide what its policy with regard to day nurseries is to be and what provision is to be made. The training of girls for the certificate of the National Society of Day Nurseries has continued with success and this has proved a valuable training for girls who wish to take up the care of children, a good recruiting ground for candidates for the nursing profession and, for those who will probably marry and have families of their own, the training is of the utmost value. In addition to the practical training in the nurseries, lectures are given by the Matrons, the Assistant M.O.H. and myself and there has been a very high percentage of success in the examinations.

SUNLIGHT TREATMENT. During 1944, thanks to the generosity of Messrs. Tilling-Stevens, Ltd., an installation for treatment by radiant heat and artificial sunlight was presented to the Health Department. This has been installed at the Old Palace, in the rooms set aside for the Maternity and Child Welfare Centre and sunlight clinics are now held twice a week. I am glad to say that the treatment has proved of benefit to many cases and to record my appreciation of this firm's gift, which was given "For the benefit of the children of Maidstone" and which is fulfilling that purpose. One of the Health Visitors was sent to the Royal Northern Hospital, London, for instruction in the use of sun-ray equipment and gratifying results have already been obtained.

Sanitary Circumstances of the Area.

WATER SUPPLY. The details of the springs, wells and reservoirs belonging to the Maidstone Water Company have been described in previous reports and during the year there have been no extensive developments. The arrangements for the inspections and patrolling of the sources and the chemical and bacteriological control of the water have continued to work satisfactorily. The tables showing the results of these examinations have been prepared as usual but are omitted from this report and are being preserved for reference.

Below is a table showing the average results of the chemical analysis of the water during the year.

Average results, 1914.	BOARLEY.	CROSSING- TON WELLS.	FOYSTAL.	EWELL.	BOXLEY WELL.	CROSSING- TON SPRINGS.	BOXLEY, BOREHOLE.
	Parts per 100,000	Parts per 100,000.	Parts per 100,000	Parts per 100,000	Parts per 100,000.	Parts per 100,000.	Parts per 100,000
Total Solid Residue ..	29.4	18.6	54.0	45.7	30.6	27.9	18.3
Chlorine ..	2.17	1.88	3.85	3.22	1.94	1.99	2.02
Nitrogen (Nitrates) ..	.24	Nil.	.39	.62	.23	.33	.006
Nitrogen (Nitrites) ..	Nil.	Nil.	Nil.	Nil.	Nil.	Nil.	Nil.
Ammoniacal Ammonia ..	Nil.	Nil.	Nil.	Nil.	Nil.	Nil.	Nil.
Albuminoid Ammonia ..	Nil.	Nil.	Nil.	Nil.	Nil.	Nil.	Nil.
Iron ..	Nil.	Nil.	Nil.	Nil.	Nil.	Nil.	Nil.
Oxygen absorbed ($\frac{1}{2}$ hour at 27° C.)	.0024	.0033	.0034	.0012	.0031	.0041	.0037
" " (4 hours at 27° C.)	.0073	.0074	.0089	.0045	.0068	.0069	.0066
Total Hardness ..	19.1	11.38	37.8	25.6	20.3	18.3	10.8

RIVERS AND STREAMS. No further action in connection with possible pollution of the Medway and its tributaries has been possible during the year.

CLOSET ACCOMMODATION. The position regarding the various types of sanitary convenience in the Borough remains approximately the same as in 1940.

W.C's. discharging into the sewer system	...	...	12,791
W.C's. discharging into cess-pools	...	...	149
Earth closets or privy middens	...	...	72
Pail closets	...	...	62

Sanitary Inspection of the Area

TABLE OF WORK OF THE SANITARY INSPECTORS.

The calling up of a large proportion of the staff and the many additional duties now required have made it difficult to maintain the routine inspections and other sanitary work, but this table shows that a large amount of work has been accomplished.

The following details of the work done have been furnished by the Chief Sanitary Inspector.

Accumulations of manure and other refuse removed	18
Bakehouses inspections	27
Chimneys repaired	18
Cement sinks removed and glazed provided.....	2
Cooking Stoves renewed or repaired	11
Cowsheds, Dairies and Milkshops inspected	28
Common Lodging House inspections	18
Coppers repaired	12
Drains cleansed on complaint or by flushing staff	1125
,, choked and cleansed	211
,, reconstructed	4
,, tested with smoke	2
,, ,, water.....	12
,, inspection chambers provided	15
,, ,, airtight covers provided	18
,, stoneware pipes laid	125
,, iron pipes laid	6
,, trapped from sewer and ventilated	3
Dustbins provided.....	23
Factory, workplaces and outworkers' premises inspected	19
Fresh air inlets provided.....	1
Grates renewed or repaired.....	10
Houses, cement floors provided in cellars.....	—
,, floors to living-rooms provided or repaired	15
,, chuting or guttering repaired or renewed.....	26
,, roofs repaired.....	120
,, rooms where dirty or loose paper has been removed and walls and ceilings repaired and distempered ...	75
,, walls made dry by insertion of damp course or other method	6
Inquiries into cases of Infectious Diseases	102
Inspection of houses on complaint or otherwise	504
of work in progress	475
Mortar joints to brickwork repaired	35
Miscellaneous defects remedied	101
Outbuildings or Washhouses repaired or rebuilt	7
Poultry or animals removed	13
Schools inspected	6
Sink or other wastepipes removed, disconnected or trapped	31
Sinks, new channels provided or repaired	19
Slaughterhouse inspections.....	521
Stairs repaired	12
Stoneware gullies provided.....	17
Strainers provided to gullies	10
W.C.'s, Walls and ceilings repaired	15
,, flushing apparatus provided or repaired	10
,, new pans and traps provided	22
,, structural defects remedied	20
Water supplies provided.....	—
Window frames repaired.....	31
Window sashes hung so as to open full size and ends screwed	17
Vermionous rooms cleansed	296
Yard pavement repaired or provided in connection with houses	6
Preliminary Notices served	288
Statutory Notices served.....	8

Factories, Workshops and Workplaces.

1.—INSPECTION OF FACTORIES AND WORKPLACES.

Including Inspections made by Sanitary Inspectors.

Premises. (1)	Number of		
	Inspections. (2)	Written Notices. (3)	Occupiers Prosecuted. (4)
Factories with Mechanical Power	21	—	—
Factories without	—	—	—
Workplaces	15	5	—
(Other than Outworkers' premises).			
TOTAL.....	36	5	—

2.—DEFECTS FOUND IN FACTORIES, WORKSHOPS AND WORKPLACES.

PARTICULARS. (1)	Number of Defects.			Number of Prosecu- tions. (5)
	Found. (2)	Remedied. (3)	Referred to H.M. Inspector. (4)	
Nuisances under the Factories Act, 1937 and the Public Health Act, 1936 :				
Want of Cleanliness	1	2	—	—
Want of Ventilation.....	—	—	—	—
Overcrowding	—	—	—	—
Want of Drainage Floors.....	1	—	—	—
Other Nuisances	4	3	—	—
Sanitary Accommo- dation. { Insufficient	2	—	—	—
{ Unsuitable or Defects ...	4	4	—	—
{ Not Separate for Sexes ...	—	—	—	—
Offences under the Factories Act, 1937 :				
Illegal Occupation of Underground Bake- house (s. 54)	—	—	—	—
Other Offences	—	—	—	—
Excluding Offences relating to the out- work and Offences under the Sections mentioned in the Schedule to the Ministry of Health (Factories and Workshops Transfer of Powers Order, 1921.				
TOTAL	12	9	—	—

Premises and Occupations which can be controlled by Bye-laws.
These are as follows :—

Common Lodging Houses	6
Slaughter Houses	2
Houses let in Lodgings	6
Cowsheds	7
Dairies and Milkshops	21

Housing Statistics.

I. Inspection of Dwelling-houses during the Year.	
(1) (a) Total number of dwelling-houses inspected for housing defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts)	101
(b) Number of inspections made for that purpose ...	140
(2) (a) Number of dwelling-houses (included under subsection (1) above) which were inspected and recorded under the Housing Consolidated Regulations, 1925 and 1932	10
(b) Number of inspections made for that purpose ...	10
(3) (a) Number of dwelling-houses found to be in a state so injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation	—
4. Number of dwelling-houses (exclusive of those referred to under the preceding sub-head) found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation ...	80
II.—Remedy of Defects during the year without Service of formal Notices.	
Number of defective dwelling-houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the Local Authority or their officers	34
III.—Action under Statutory Powers during the Year.	
A.—PROCEEDINGS UNDER SECTIONS 9, 10 AND 16 OF THE HOUSING ACT, 1936.	
(1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring repairs	24
(2) Number of dwelling-houses which were rendered fit after service of formal notices :—	
(a) by owners	16
(b) by Local Authority in default of owners ...	4
B.—PROCEEDINGS UNDER PUBLIC HEALTH ACTS.	
(1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring defects to be remedied	—
(2) Number of dwelling-houses in which defects were remedied after service of formal notices :—	
(a) by owners	16
(b) by Local Authority in default of owners ...	1
C. PROCEEDINGS UNDER SECTION 11 AND 13 OF THE HOUSING ACT, 1936.	
(1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which Demolition Orders were made	—
(2) Number of dwelling-houses demolished in pursuance of Demolition Orders	—

Housing Statistics, (continued).

D.—PROCEEDINGS UNDER SECTION 12 OF THE HOUSING ACT, 1936.		
(1)	Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were made	—
(2)	Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were determined, the tenement or room having been rendered fit	—
III.—Housing Act, 1936.—Part 4—Overcrowding.		
(a) (1)	Number of dwellings overcrowded at the end of the year Indeterminable	—
(2)	Number of families dwelling therein ..	—
(3)	Number of persons dwelling therein ..	—
(b)	Number of new cases of overcrowding reported during the year	16
(c) (1)	Number of cases of overcrowding relieved during the year	4
(2)	Number of persons concerned in such cases ...	20
(d)	Particulars of any cases in which dwelling-houses have again become overcrowded after the Local Authority have taken steps for the abatement of overcrowding	—
(e)	Any other particulars with respect to overcrowding conditions upon which the Medical Officer of Health may consider it desirable to report ...	—

The housing situation in Maidstone has become very much more difficult in the past year and there is already a serious amount of overcrowding, which shows signs of becoming very much more of a problem. The loss of houses from enemy action and from the natural wastage, with the almost complete stoppage of new building has created a situation where accommodation is almost impossible to obtain and the number of cases in which men and women serving in the Forces have married and are living with their parents or in lodgings, while waiting hopefully for homes, is very great. The result is a large number of cases in which the homes are overcrowded and when demobilisation is in full swing and these young people call for homes of their own, it will take a very vigorous effort to meet the demand and I fear that there will be much outcry from those who want houses and find that they are unobtainable. Hardly a day passes without callers in the Health Department office, asking for advice and help as to where to find somewhere to live. Lodgings are almost unobtainable and there is great difficulty in finding rooms in which children will be accepted. Housing is the first need and the greatest problem of the return from war to peace conditions and as soon as the supply of houses shows any signs of increase, there are many properties in the Borough which are only fit for demolition.

During the year the following work in the eradication of bugs was carried out :—

(a) Council houses found to be infested	30
(b) Other houses	45

Council houses disinfested :—

(a) By gassing with "Thermatox"	18
(c) By spraying and burning insecticides	15

Other houses disinfested :—

(a) By gassing with "Thermatox"	21
(c) By spraying and burning insecticides	30

Vermionous households fumigated before removal to a Council house or during transfer to another Council house

5

Council houses inspected and found clean.....

16

Other houses inspected and found clean

5

Inspection and Supervision of Food.

The number of carcasses inspected and condemned during the year was as follows :—

	Cattle ex- cluding cows		Cows.	Calves.	Sheep & Lambs		Pigs.
Number killed	467	1386	3053	7046	299		
Number inspected	467	1386	3053	7046	299		
ALL DISEASES EXCEPT TUBERCULOSIS.							
Whole carcasses condemned	2	16	2	45	3		
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned	31	10	4	18	20		
Percentage of the number inspected affected with disease other than tuberculosis	7.14%	1.01%	.19%	1.03%	7.69%		
TUBERCULOSIS ONLY.							
Whole carcasses condemned	4	34	—	—	4		
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned	62	101	14	—	24		
Percentage of the number inspected affected with tuberculosis	14.28%	9.74%	.45%	—	9.36%		

Approximate weight condemned: 39 tons, 11 cwts, 3 qts. 4 lbs.

During the year, the following quantities of foods of various descriptions were found to be unfit for human consumption. This unfit food, all of which was surrendered, included the following :—

	Tons.	Cwts.	Qrs.	Lbs.
Canned food... ..	1	17	1	18
Meat and canned meat ...	1	1	2	8
Fish and canned fish ...	—	19	—	—
Bread	—	7	2	20
Dates... ..	—	1	1	3
Butter	—	2	2	—
Hams	—	9	2	13½
Cheese	—	—	1	14
Sausages and sausage meat...	—	2	1	2
Jam	—	—	3	24
Sultanas	—	—	1	25
Paste... ..	—	9	—	15
Cocoa	—	3	—	—
Sugar	—	—	2	13
Potatoes	—	9	—	—
Flour	—	10	2	7
Biscuits	—	2	2	4
Prunes	—	—	2	2
Haricot beans	—	—	1	—
Barley	—	1	—	2
Semolina	—	—	1	7
Soup powder	—	1	1	8
Gravy powder	—	1	—	2
Spiced anchovy	32 jars	—	—	—
Various puddings	67 packets.	—	—	—
Lentils	—	1	7	0
Corn flakes	—	1	—	7
Rolled oats	—	—	2	16
Breakfast food	—	—	2	5
Washing powder	—	1	—	—
Milk... ..	3,392 tins.	—	—	—

FOOD AND DRUGS.—During the year, the following samples of food and drugs were taken for analysis, with the results recorded below :—

Article.	Number of samples Obtained.	Number Genuine.
New milk	68	65
Margarine	3	3
Cocoa	2	2
Butter... ..	3	3
Pepper	2	2
Lard	2	2
Custard	1	1
Camphorated oil	2	2
Egg substitute	2	2
Zinc ointment	2	2
Lemon flavouring	2	2
Mustard	1	1
Ginger wine	2	2
Oatmeal	2	2
Fish paste	2	2
Baking powder	2	2
Shredded suet	1	—
Vinegar	2	2
Sardines	1	1
Coffee	2	2
	104	100

Prevalence of, and Control over, Infectious and other Diseases.

I give below, in tabular form details of the cases of notifiable disease which occurred in the Borough during 1944, other than Tuberculosis : --

DISEASE.	Total Cases Notified.	Cases Admitted to Hospital.	Total Deaths.
Smallpox	Nil	Nil	Nil
Scarlet Fever	99	94	Nil
Diphtheria	16	16	3
Enteric Fever	Nil	Nil	Nil
Puerperal Fever and .. Pyrexia	7	5	Nil
Pneumonia	10	4	2
Erysipelas... ..	1	Nil	Nil
Ophthalmia Neonatorum	Nil	Nil	Nil
Poliomyelitis	Nil	Nil	Nil
Cerebro Spinal Fever ...	Nil	Nil	Nil
Measles	26	Nil	Nil
Whooping Cough	28	Nil	Nil
Totals	190	119	5

One of the features of the war which has fortunately confounded the many pessimistic prophets is that the wide-spread epidemics which were foretold have, so far, failed to materialize and the Health Services, both military and civil, have reason for pride in the control which has been possible over infectious disease. Invasion of these islands by one or more of the scourges which have affected various parts of the Continent has been much more of a possibility than a visitation from Hitler's hordes, but so far these have been averted, though the danger has not ceased with the end of hostilities.

During 1911, there was a certain amount of scarlet fever in the Borough, 99 cases in all being notified as against 246 in 1943. Most of these cases were of mild type and there were no deaths. Measles, which in 1943 showed a total of 136 notifications, fell to 26 in 1944, also with no deaths. 16 cases of diphtheria were notified, but of these, 11 were cases notified from the County Mental Hospital and the amount of diphtheria among the population of Maidstone has been small. Immunisation against diphtheria has continued with vigour and it is now becoming an established custom for children to be protected against this disease at about the period of the 1st birthday. The public has shown again that it is ready to co-operate in measures that are proved to be of value and this proof has been clear and definite in Maidstone. Records over the last 25 years show that an increased incidence of diphtheria was to be expected in definite cycles and a peak in the incidence chart was

to be anticipated in 1944. In fact, among the adults there was the expected rise but among those under 15—the immunised part of the community—there was not the rise that in former cycles accompanied the peak in total incidence. On the chart, I have plotted two graphs—one showing the total number of cases and one showing the cases in the age-group 0-15. In every previous peak on the chart, the two graphs followed the same pattern, the incidence in those under 15 rising with the total incidence, but in 1944, a rise in the total cases was not followed by a like rise in the number of cases among children. The two curves diverged, and demonstrated that, though a rise in incidence was to be expected, in the immunised section of the community there was actually a fall. I regret that I cannot reproduce this chart in the Report, for it is a clear demonstration of the value of immunisation and an answer to those critics who argue that there would have been a fall in the incidence-rate in any case. I have no doubt that with efficient immunisation we have the means of controlling diphtheria in the community.

At the end of 1944, the percentage of school children which had been immunised was 92·2 and of children under school age, 62·4. This is a note-worthy achievement and I am proud to be able to record such an advance.

I give below an analysis of the notifications of infectious disease according to the Wards of the Borough in which they occurred:—

	High St.	Stone St.	King St.	North Heath	Bridge	
Scarlet Fever	9	36	3	20	15	16
Diphtheria	1	—	1	2	11	1
Pneumonia	—	1	—	3	3	3
Puerperal Pyrexia ...	—	1	1	2	2	1
Erysipelas	—	1	—	—	—	3
Ophthalmia Neonatorum	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
Anterior Polio-myelitis	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
Cerebro-spinal Meningitis	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
Measles	6	4	5	9	—	2
Whooping Cough ...	5	7	3	8	2	3

Below is a table showing the number of pathological specimens from the Borough examined at the Kent County Laboratories and the results:—

Disease for which examination was made.	Results.		Total.
	Positive.	Negative.	
Diphtheria	8	11	19
Pulmonary Tuberculosis	53	7	60
Varicella	90	123	213
	151	141	292

CANCER.

The number of deaths from cancer in Maidstone during the past 5 years is as follows:—

	number of deaths
1940	80
1941	81
1942	85
1943	80
1944	83

Deaths from Cancer during 1944 under age groups.

Age Periods,	Male.	Female.
0 to 1	—	—
1 .. 5	—	—
5 .. 15	—	—
15 .. 25	—	—
25 .. 35	—	2
35 .. 45	1	4
45 .. 55	7	4
55 .. 65	4	12
65 and upwards.	23	26
Totals	35	48

PREVENTION OF BLINDNESS.
OPHTHALMIA NEONATORUM.

Notified.	Cases.		Vision Unimpaired.	Vision Impaired.	Total Blindness.	Deaths.
	Treated.					
	At Home.	In Hospital.				
Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil

TUBERCULOSIS.

Age Periods.	New Cases.				Deaths.			
	Pulmonary.		Non-Pulmonary.		Pulmonary.		Non-Pulmonary.	
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
0 to 1 ...	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	1
1 to 5 ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
5 to 15 ...	2	1	2	2	—	—	—	—
15 to 25 ..	2	10	1	1	2	4	1	—
25 to 35 ..	10	5	1	—	2	4	—	—
35 to 45 ...	9	4	—	2	3	—	1	—
45 to 55 ..	5	3	—	1	5	1	1	1
55 to 65 ...	3	5	—	1	3	2	—	—
65 and upwards	4	—	—	1	2	—	—	2
Totals ...	35	28	1	9	17	11	3	4

The number of deaths from all forms of Tuberculosis which had been notified was 22. The number which had not been notified was 13.

The ratio of non-notified Tuberculosis deaths to the total number of Tuberculosis deaths was thus .37 to 1.

TABLE I.

Analysis of Cases of Notifiable Diseases under Age Groups.

Disease.	Under 1	1-2	2-3	3-4	4-5	5-10	10-15	15-20	20-35	35-45	45-65	65 & over	Total
Scarlet Fever ...	1	1	1	6	7	12	20	10	5	4	2	—	99
Diphtheria	—	2	1	—	—	2	1	3	4	2	—	1	16
Polio-myelitis ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Puerperal Fever and Pyrexia	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	6	—	—	—	7
Pneumonia	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	1	—	5	3	10
Erysipelas	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	3	—	4
Ophthalmia Neonatorum	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Enteric Fevers	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Cerebro-spinal Fever	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Whooping Cough	2	8	1	2	2	13	—	—	—	—	—	—	28
Measles	—	2	1	3	2	15	—	2	1	—	—	—	26
Totals	3	13	4	12	11	72	21	16	18	6	10	4	190

TABLE Ia.

Analysis of Deaths of Notifiable Diseases under Age Groups.

Disease.	Under 1	1-2	2-3	3-4	4-5	5-10	10-15	15-20	20-35	35-45	45-65	65 and over	Total
Scarlet Fever
Diphtheria	1	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	1	3
Cerebro Spinal-Fever
Puerperal Sepsis
Other Puerperal Diseases
Pneumonia	2	2
Ophthalmia Neonatorum
Erysipelas
Cerebro-spinal meningitis
Whooping Cough
Measles
Totals	1	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	3	5

TABLE IIa.

Causes of Death.							M.	F.
All Causes							324	279
1	Typhoid fever, etc. . . . .						...	...
2	Cerebro-spinal fever						1	...
3	Scarlet Fever . . . . .						...	...
4	Whooping Cough . . . . .						...	...
5	Diphtheria						2	...
6	Tuberculosis : of respiratory system						15	9
7	Other forms of Tuberculosis						2	1
8	Syphilitic diseases						3	1
9	Influenza						4	1
10	Measles . . . . .						...	...
11	Ac : polio-myel : and polio-enceph : . . . . .						...	...
12	Ac : inf : enceph : . . . . .						...	...
13	Cancer of buc : cav . and Oesoph (M) uterus (F)						2	4
14	Cancer of stomach and duodenum						13	8
15	Cancer of breast . . . . .						...	14
16	Cancer of all other sites						21	21
17	Diabetes . . . . .						...	2
18	Intra-cranial vascular lesions						33	30
19	Heart Disease						63	71
20	Other diseases of circ : system						10	7
21	Bronchitis						24	14
22	Pneumonia						17	15
23	Other resp : dis :						7	1
24	Ulcer of stomach or duodenum						6	...
25	Diarrhea (under 2 years)						12	13
26	Appendicitis						1	1
27	Other digve. dis :						3	8
28	Nephritis						7	6
29	Puer : and post-abort : sepsis . . . . .						...	...
30	Other Maternal Causes . . . . .						...	...
31	Prem : birth						13	4
32	Con : Mal : birth inj : infant : dis :						13	8
33	Suicide						1	...
34	Road traffic acc :						3	1
35	Other violent causes						12	10
36	All other causes						36	29

TABLE III.

INFANT MORTALITY, 1944. NETT DEATHS FROM STATED CAUSES AT VARIOUS AGES UNDER 1 YEAR OF AGE.

Causes of Death.					Under 1 week	1-2 weeks	2-3 weeks	3-4 weeks	Total under 4 weeks	4 weeks and under 3 months	3 months and under 6 months	6 months and under 9 months	9 months and under 12 months	Total Deaths under 1 year
All Causes	...	...	...	...	31	6	2	2	41	10	15	13	4	83
Small-pox	...	...	..	...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Chicken-pox	...	...	...	...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Measles	...	...	...	...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Scarlet Fever	...	...	...	...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Whooping Cough	...	..	...	...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Diphtheria	...	...	...	...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Erysipelas	..	...	...	...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Tubercular Meningitis	...	...	...	...	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	1
Other Tuberculosis Diseases	...	...	...	...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Meningitis (not Tuberculous)	..	...	...	...	—	1	—	—	1	—	—	2	—	3
Convulsions	...	...	...	...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Bronchitis	...	...	...	...	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	1
Pneumonia	...	..	...	...	—	1	—	1	2	2	3	3	1	11
Diarrhoea	...	...	...	...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	1
Enteritis	...	...	...	..	—	—	1	—	1	4	9	7	2	23
Gastritis	..	...	...	...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Syphilis	...	...	...	...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Rickets	...	...	...	...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Suffocation, overlying	...	..	...	...	3	—	—	—	3	2	1	—	—	6
Injury at birth	...	...	...	...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Atelectasis	...	...	...	...	3	—	—	—	3	—	—	—	—	3
Congenital Malformations	...	...	...	...	2	1	—	—	3	—	—	—	—	3
Premature birth	...	...	...	..	17	2	1	—	20	—	—	—	—	20
Atrophy, Debility and Marasmus...	1	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	1	—	—	—	3
Other Causes	..	...	...	...	5	—	—	1	6	1	—	—	1	8
Nett Live Births in the year					{ Legitimate				...	...	...	872		
					{ Illegitimate				...	...	..	99		
Nett Deaths in the year					{ Legitimate				...	...	...	73		
					{ Illegitimate				...	...	...	10		

TABLE IV.

ANNUAL STATISTICS RELATING TO MATERNITY HOME FOR YEAR 1944.

1) Name and address of Institution	Maternity Hospital, South Park, Maidstone.
2) Number of Maternity beds in the Institution (exclusive of isolation and labour beds).	12
3) Number of Maternity cases admitted during the year	217
4) Average duration of stay	14 days.
5) Number of cases delivered by	
(a) Midwives	197
(b) Doctors	12
(c) Number of cases admitted after delivery	5
(Three cases admitted but not delivered. Transferred to West Kent General Hospital.	
6) Number of cases in which medical assistance was sought by a midwife in emergency	Daily visits by Medical Officer.
7) Number of cases notified as—	
(a) Puerperal Fever	—
(b) „ Pyrexia	5
8) Number of cases of Pemphigus Neonatorum.	—
9) Number of Infants not entirely breast-fed while in the Institution	45
10) Number of cases notified as :—	
(a) Ophthalmia Neonatorum	Nil
(b) Result of treatment in each case	
11) Number of Maternal deaths	Nil
12) Number of Infant Deaths—	
(a) Stillborn	4
(b) within 10 days of birth	7

